

The month as a whole was the coldest of record for December over much of Montana, the Dakotas, and some near-by areas, the averages ranging from 15° to nearly 20° below normal, and the month was much colder than normal over nearly all other portions of the country from the Mississippi Valley westward save in certain of the coast districts of California, where, in a few instances, the month was slightly warmer than average.

Over the more eastern districts the average monthly temperatures were above normal, the excess increasing toward the Atlantic coast and New England, though even there the positive departures were mainly not large. In Canada the month was decidedly cold over western districts but moderately warm over the Maritime Provinces.

## PRECIPITATION

The month was distinctly wet over most eastern districts and moderately dry in the West.

In the Southeastern States the monthly amounts were mainly well above normal, a few points having unusually heavy falls for December, though the distribution was satisfactory. Over Florida, however, the precipitation was generally less than normal, but sufficient as a rule to greatly benefit the trucking interests. Much replanting, however, was necessary, due to the dry weather preceding. Over the Plains States from Oklahoma to Nebraska and thence westward and northwestward to the Pacific there was mainly deficient precipitation, a few points in the north Pacific coast sections having the least precipitation of record for December. In portions of the far Northwest heavy rains during the first few days, in connection with rapid melting of the snow cover, due to warm weather, produced important floods in some of the mountain streams.

## SNOWFALL

The amount of snow was generally less than is expected in December, save along the northern border from the

Great Lakes westward; there locally the fall was well above normal and some section had the heaviest individual snowstorms of record. Over the more eastern districts, however, there was mainly little snow and some stations in southern New England had the least of record for December, while others reported no snowfall during the entire month, a condition not heretofore observed.

Despite the absence of important snowfall over the country as a whole it was widely distributed and occurred in small quantities at least over most districts where it is usually expected.

Some heavy falls occurred in the upper Mississippi Valley on the 6th-7th in connection with the severe storm on those dates over the Great Lakes, and some heavy local falls occurred in the Dakotas and Minnesota on the 14th and 15th. In Buffalo, N. Y., rather unusual conditions as to snowfall existed on the 17th and 18th. On the 17th the heaviest snow of the year was recorded at the Weather Bureau office, nearly 13 inches, while on the following day only a trace was recorded at that office, while in some outlying suburbs the snow fell to depths of 2 to 4 feet, the greatest of record, causing almost complete tie-ups in local traffic.

Snow was generally deficient in the central and southern mountain districts and the accumulated pack at the end of the month was usually less than normal.

## RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Despite a marked excess of precipitation over most portions of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast States there was a general, and, in some cases, extensive deficiency in the average relative humidity. There were likewise important deficiencies in the middle and southern Plains and over the far Northwest, which may be attributed to the general lack of precipitation. Over most other districts there were general excesses, these being large in the far Southwest and over northern districts from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes.

## SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, DECEMBER, 1927

The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau.

Place	Date	Time	Width of path	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Virginia (southeastern).....	4		Yards			High winds.....	Considerable damage by high water; some sections near Norfolk inundated.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Havre, Mont.....	4-5					Wind and snow.....	A number of people and livestock frozen to death; minor property damage.	Do.
Hearne, Tex., and vicinity..	6	P. m.....		1		Wind and rain.....	Two homes wrecked, others blown from foundations; roofs torn off and cotton sheds demolished.	Dallas Morning News (Tex.)
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.	6-8					Wind and snow.....	Heavy damage to wires, trees, and poles; transportation delayed; many minor accidents and several deaths reported; much suffering from cold.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Tunnel Springs, Ala. (near).	7			1		Tornadic wind.....	School building and several homes demolished; trees uprooted.	Courier (Evansville, Ind.).
Cheesman Lake, Colo.....	8					Wind.....	Many trees broken; roofs blown off.....	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Buffalo, N. Y., and vicinity..	8			5	700,000	Severe wind.....	Lake steamers, small craft, amusement beaches, and lake shore property damaged.	Do.
Parkersburg, W. Va.....	8	A. m.....				do.....	Overhead wires considerably damaged.....	Do.
Mount Vernon (near) to Oakland City, Ind.	13				50,000	Tornadic wind.....	Trees, wires, crops, and buildings damaged.....	Do.
New York (northern).....	16					Glaze and wind.....	Great amount of damage to telephone, telegraph, and power lines; trees broken; transportation delayed.	Do.
South Dakota (western)....	29-30					Wind and snow.....	Highways impassable; stock suffers greatly; trains delayed.	Do.
Illinois and Missouri.....	30-31					do.....	Trains delayed; highways obstructed; car service hampered; 2 railway accidents in Illinois.	Do.